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Letter dated 9 October 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

At 10.30 a.m. today as the citizens of Israel were starting the work week, a terrorist launched a shooting rampage in the streets of Jerusalem. As he drove through the busy "Ammunition Hill" neighbourhood of Jerusalem, he opened fire on groups of people going about their daily activities, targeting pedestrians at a light rail station and the surrounding area before he was stopped by Israeli security forces. The attacker was a well-known member of the internationally recognized terrorist group Hamas and a member of the Mourabitoun, an outlawed Islamist group, which has been responsible for inflaming and fanning violence in Jerusalem and particularly on the Temple Mount.

At least six people were injured and two people, 60-year-old Levanah Malichi, and 30-year-old First Sergeant Yosef Kirme, a police officer, were killed in this horrific attack on Israeli citizens. Levanah, who had retired after working for 30 years in the Knesset, the Israeli Parliament, was a mother of three and a grandmother of six. First Sergeant Kirme, who died heroically trying to stop the terrorist from causing further carnage, was a newlywed, leaving behind a wife of just four months.

This vile attack represents yet another deadly incident in the ongoing wave of terror against the people of Israel which began over a year ago, in September 2015. Over the course of the continuous attacks, the Palestinian leadership has fanned the flames with constant incitement to violence and glorification of terror, in Palestinian schools and mosques, and on television. Today's murderous rampage was no exception. When word of the brutal murder of innocent Israelis became known, Hamas did not hesitate to praise the "heroic Jerusalem operation", which it called a "natural response". The spokesperson of the terrorist organization, Fawzi Barhoum, said that the murders are "confirmation of the continuation of the intifada".

News of the heinous murders set off celebrations in the streets of Gaza. I have obtained pictures that speak for themselves: children handing out sweets and proudly holding up banners with the faces of terrorists. Recently, Israel was blamed by Security Council members for impeding progress towards peace. This rhetoric and those celebrations are the real roadblocks to peace. When the children of Gaza are taught to hand out candies to celebrate terror and to raise banners to pay homage

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to terrorists, an entire new generation of young Palestinians is being raised to hatred and violence, which distances the possibility of peace even further.

The glorification of terror is the direct cause of the non-stop campaign of terror against Israelis and the murder of Levanah Malichi and Yosef Kirme. It is past time for the international community to state clearly and unconditionally that praising terror and glorifying terrorists is wrong and unacceptable, and to hold the Palestinian leadership accountable.

In the face of this horrific murder and the widespread and appalling practice of celebrating terror attacks, the silence of the Palestinian Authority is deafening. I call on this Council to demand that the Palestinian Authority cease all incitement immediately and unequivocally condemn these horrific murders in Jerusalem.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Danny **Danon**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative